

## 2016 Optometry/Ophthalmology Educational and Training Comparison Chart

Degree/Qualification	Optometrist (OD)	Ophthalmologist (MD)
	Optometry School	Medical School
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4</b> Years in length</li> <li>• Hours of coursework based on SUNY Optometry School are <b>597.3</b> hours of basic sciences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4</b> years in length</li> <li>• Average hours of coursework based on average across medical schools are <b>1,436</b> hours of basic sciences.</li> </ul>
	Optometry Post Graduate Training	Ophthalmology Residency
Mandatory Post– Graduate Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is <b>no mandatory post graduate training</b>. About 15% go on to an optional <b>1-year</b> training program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory additional <b>4</b> years in training</li> <li>• Must complete <b>1</b> year of general medical or surgical internship.</li> <li>• Must complete <b>3</b> years of an ophthalmology residency-training program.</li> <li>• <b>40%</b> of ophthalmologists participate on a 1 or 2 year fellowship program.</li> <li>• Additional ophthalmology instruction and lab on ocular disease and management of a minimum <b>626</b> hours during residency.</li> </ul>
Clinical Experience During Mandatory Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hours of clinical experience based on SUNY Optometry School are <b>1,910</b> hours.</li> <li>• Optometrists have no minimum requirements for number of patient visits with ocular diseases or ocular surgical operative experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate of an average <b>60</b> hours per week, with at least <b>17,280</b> hours for clinical experience.</li> <li>• Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education requirements: 3,000 outpatient visits; minimum operative numbers as primary surgeon and as assistant; experience in the entire spectrum of ophthalmic disease and ocular surgery.</li> </ul>
Profession Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State licensure</li> <li>• Several national boards with highly variable standards. None qualify for membership in the American Board of Medical Specialties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State licensure</li> <li>• National board certification by the American Board of Ophthalmology, a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties.</li> <li>• Recertification mandatory every <b>10</b> years for Ophthalmologists certified in 1992 or later.</li> </ul>